

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2005

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
All disabled beneficiaries									
1999	1,265,055	2,491	104,344	444,004	4,068	708,290	1,858	56.1	61.4
2000	1,364,396	3,787	136,106	456,284	3,838	762,442	1,939	56.0	62.5
2001	1,513,536	5,783	170,513	495,793	3,593	835,920	1,934	55.4	62.7
2002	1,716,221	14,207	230,953	575,886	4,087	888,988	2,100	52.2	60.7
2003	1,942,433	57,222	373,965	608,730	4,552	895,883	2,081	47.5	59.5
2004	2,252,229	209,319	615,924	616,901	5,902	802,501	1,682	39.3	56.4
2005	2,044,971	295,700	528,636	597,286	7,456	613,873	2,020	35.1	50.5
Workers									
1992	1,310,004	0	130,885	481,439	5,725	689,111	2,844	52.6	58.8
1993	1,384,501	0	140,314	540,906	5,626	695,007	2,648	50.2	56.2
1994	1,383,092	0	130,240	573,158	5,506	671,791	2,397	48.6	53.9
1995	1,301,472	0	123,711	542,097	5,048	628,380	2,236	48.3	53.6
1996	1,313,818	0	116,988	537,482	5,011	652,221	2,116	49.6	54.8
1997	1,164,680	0	106,881	449,841	4,213	601,886	1,859	51.7	57.2
1998	1,138,101	0	96,737	422,096	4,213	613,010	2,045	53.9	59.2
1999	1,167,664	2,400	102,320	417,574	4,020	639,564	1,786	54.9	60.4
2000	1,265,214	3,662	134,000	430,477	3,803	691,400	1,872	54.8	61.6
2001	1,414,598	5,644	168,225	470,044	3,550	765,256	1,879	54.3	61.9
2002	1,609,612	13,884	228,346	546,393	4,030	814,910	2,049	51.1	59.8
2003	1,831,314	56,336	370,999	576,258	4,493	821,218	2,010	46.3	58.7
2004	2,138,679	206,834	611,911	581,625	5,849	730,832	1,628	37.8	55.6
2005	1,938,525	291,953	524,797	562,612	7,366	549,848	1,949	33.4	49.3
Widow(er)s									
1999	40,055	52	1,173	9,668	17	29,108	37	72.8	75.1
2000	39,996	67	1,258	8,978	11	29,653	29	74.3	76.8
2001	40,238	73	1,344	8,688	13	30,101	19	74.9	77.6
2002	41,325	167	1,537	9,050	19	30,533	19	74.2	77.1
2003	41,473	458	1,643	9,509	25	29,794	44	72.6	75.9
2004	41,774	1,341	2,068	10,066	23	28,251	25	69.9	73.8
2005	38,679	2,033	1,882	10,040	29	24,669	26	67.3	71.1

(Continued)

Outcomes of Applications for Disability Benefits

Table 58.
Outcomes at all adjudicative levels, by year of application, 1992–2005—Continued

Year	Total	Pending final decision	Technical denials ^a	Medical decisions				Award rate ^b (percent)	Allowance rate ^c (percent)
				Denials		Allowances			
				Medical	Subsequent nonmedical ^d	Awards	Subsequent denials ^e		
Adult children									
1999	57,336	39	851	16,762	31	39,618	35	69.1	70.3
2000	59,186	58	848	16,829	24	41,389	38	70.0	71.1
2001	58,700	66	944	17,061	30	40,563	36	69.2	70.4
2002	65,284	156	1,070	20,443	38	43,545	32	66.9	68.1
2003	69,646	428	1,323	22,963	34	44,871	27	64.8	66.2
2004	71,776	1,144	1,945	25,210	30	43,418	29	61.5	63.3
2005	67,767	1,714	1,957	24,634	61	39,356	45	59.6	61.5

SOURCE: Social Security Administration, Disability Research file, 100 percent data.

NOTES: Data for the initial and reconsideration levels are current through June 2006. Data for the hearing level or above are current through August 2006.

Because a number of applications remain pending for more recent years, the award and allowance rates will change over time. Cases can be pending at the initial or appellate levels and can include either medical or technical issues.

Data include decisions for Social Security–only applications and applications for both Social Security and Supplemental Security Income (SSI); they do not include SSI-only applications.

Data from 1992 to 1998 are available for disabled workers only.

- a. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons; therefore no decision was made on severity of impairment.
- b. Rate determined by dividing awards by all applications minus pending claims for that year.
- c. Rate determined by dividing medical allowances by all medical decisions for that year.
- d. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant did not meet the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.
- e. Applications were denied for nonmedical reasons after a decision was made that the applicant met the medical severity criteria for disability benefits.

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